

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO USIA WASHDC

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AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SUCL, PL

SUBJECT: POLISH-AMERICAN CULTURAL RELATIONS

1. THE RELATIVE AUTONOMY OF SOME STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND THE CONTINUING FAVORABLE CLIMATE OF POLISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS WERE ILLUSTRATED BY RECENT APPEARANCES OF AMERICAN OFFICERS AT TWO POLISH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. EMBASSY IO ADDRESSED STUDENT MEETING AT WARSAW UNIVERSITY INSTITUTION OF ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING.

THREE-HOUR DISCUSSION WAS CANDID AND LIVELY, AFFORDING AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY TO ARTICULATE AMERICAN FOREIGN-POLICY VIEWS AT AN IMPORTANT PERHAPS PARTLY MOTIVATED BY GIEREK VISIT TO CUBA, TRAINING GROUND FOR POLISH MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL. STUDENTS CONCENTRATED PARTICULARLY ON AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICA.

2. ACTING BPAO IN KRAKOW SPOKE TO STUDENT GROUP AT AKADEMIA GORNICZO-HUTNICZA IN SAME FORMAT OF BRIEF INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FOLLOWED BY PROLONGED, WIDE-RANGING QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIOD. THIS MEETING WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN KRAKOW. TO TEMPER ANY THOUGHTS THAT UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCH CONTACTS NOW EXISTS IN POLAND, OUR BPAO ALSO REPORTS THAT SIMILIAR MEETING AT THE KRAKOW POLTECHNIKA WAS CANCELLED AT THE LAST MINUTE. HE BELIEVES THAT SOMEONE IN THE PARTY RANKS OF THE SCHOOL'S ADMINISTRATION CHANGED HIS MIND.

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COMPLETE REPORTS ON THESE EVENTS FOLLOW.

3. TWO EMBASSY ATTEMPTS TO BROADEN CONTACTS WITH LOCAL UNIVERSITY-LEVEL INSTITUTIONS ALSO RESULTED IN LAST-MINUTE CANCELLATIONS. THE WARSAW DRAMA ACADEMY DECLINED TO SEND ITS STUDENTS TO AN EMBASSY SCREENING OF "THE GLASS MENAGERIE," CLAIMING STUDENTS WERE "TOO OCCUPIED WITH EXAMINATIONS." ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SHOWINGS HAD BEEN MADE THROUGH ONE OF THE ACADEMY'S LEADING PROFESSORS. ALSO, THE WARSAW POLYTECHNIC SUDDENLY CANCELLED AN EXHIBIT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TEXTBOOKS AND REFERRED THE EMBASSY TO THE MFA FOR "CLEARANCE OF SUCH EXHIBITS."

4. PLACEMENT OF AN EMBASSY PHOTO EXHIBIT ON THE GIEREK VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES ALSO HAS EVOKED MIXED RESULTS FROM POTENTIAL EXHIBITORS

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A PREVIOUS COMMITMENT TO THIS EXHIBIT WAS ABRUPTLY CANCELLED BY THE STODOLA STUDENT CENTER. HOWEVER, IT WAS THEN QUICKLY ACCEPTED AND IS NOW DISPLAYED AT THE ZSM (SOCIALIST YOUTH UNION) FACILITY OF THE AGRICULTURAL ACADEMY IN WARSAW.

5. COMMENT: AMONG STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY, GOOD POLISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE WELCOMED AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND PERSONAL AND INTELLECTUAL CONTACTS WITH THE UNITED STATES. MORE HESITATION AND GREATER SENSITIVITY TO IDEOLOGICAL FIDELITY ARE ENCOUNTERED AMONG INSTITUTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS AND PROFESSORS, WHO, OF COURSE, ARE SUBJECT TO STRICTER POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY. NO CLEAR PICTURE YET HAS EMERGED ON THE DIRECTION AND LATITUDE OF CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES IN THE POST-GIEREK VISIT PERIOD. THE REGIME IS STILL LEFT WITH THE DILEMMA OF RECONCILING THE IMPERATIVES OF IDEOLOGICAL PURITY WITH DETENTE AND THE STRONG TRADITIONAL INTERESTS OF POLISH STUDENTS AND INTELLECTUALS IN CLOSE, UNIMPAIRED CULTURAL TIES WITH THE WEST.
DAVIES

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